



**NEW ALGORITHM FOR DETERMINANT OF  
MATRICES VIA COMBINATORIAL APPROACH**

**LUGEN M. ZAKE**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA  
2012**



Awang Had Salleh  
Graduate School  
of Arts And Sciences

Universiti Utara Malaysia

**PERAKUAN KERJA TESIS / DISERTASI**  
(Certification of thesis / dissertation)

Kami, yang bertandatangan, memperakukan bahawa  
(We, the undersigned, certify that)

**LUGEN M ZAKE**

calon untuk Ijazah  
(candidate for the degree of)

**PhD**

telah mengemukakan tesis / disertasi yang bertajuk:  
(has presented his/her thesis / dissertation of the following title):

**"NEW ALGORITHM FOR DETERMINANT OF MATRICES VIA COMBINATORIAL APPROACH"**

seperti yang tercatat di muka surat tajuk dan kulit tesis / disertasi.  
(as it appears on the title page and front cover of the thesis / dissertation).

Bahawa tesis/disertasi tersebut boleh diterima dari segi bentuk serta kandungan dan meliputi bidang ilmu dengan memuaskan, sebagaimana yang ditunjukkan oleh calon dalam ujian lisan yang diadakan pada : **05 Mac 2012**.

*That the said thesis/dissertation is acceptable in form and content and displays a satisfactory knowledge of the field of study as demonstrated by the candidate through an oral examination held on:*  
**March 05, 2012.**

Pengerusi Viva:  
(Chairman for VIVA)

**Prof. Dr. Ku Ruhana Ku Mahamud**

Tandatangan  
(Signature)

Pemeriksa Luar:  
(External Examiner)

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abd Ghafur Ahmad**

Tandatangan  
(Signature)

Pemeriksa Dalam:  
(Internal Examiner)

**Dr. Azizan Saaban**

Tandatangan  
(Signature)

Nama Penyelia/Penyelia-penyelia:  
(Name of Supervisor/Supervisors)

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Haslinda Ibrahim**

Tandatangan  
(Signature)

Nama Penyelia/Penyelia-penyelia:  
(Name of Supervisor/Supervisors)

**Prof. Dr. Zurni Omar**

Tandatangan  
(Signature)

Tarikh:  
(Date) **March 05, 2012**

## **Permission to use**

In presenting this thesis in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Universiti Utara Malaysia, I agree that the university library may make it freely available for inspection. I further agree that permission for copying of this thesis in any manner, in whole or in part, for the scholarly purposes may be granted by my supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Haslinda Ibrahim, or in her absence, by the Dean of Awang Had Salleh Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. It is understood that any copying or publication or use of this thesis or part thereof for financial gain shall not be allowed without any written permission. It is also understood that due recognition shall be given to me and to Universiti Utara Malaysia for any scholarly use which may be made of any material from this thesis.

Request for permission to copy or to make other use of material in this thesis, in whole or in part, should be addressed to:

Dean of Awang Had Salleh Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

UUM College of Arts and Sciences

Universiti Utara Malaysia

06010 UUM Sintok

## Abstrak

Kaedah pencarian penentu bagi matriks telah lama diterokai dan menarik minat ramai penyelidik. Namun begitu, kebanyakan kaedah yang sedia ada adalah rumit serta memerlukan masa pengiraan yang panjang terutamanya bila saiz matriks semakin besar. Sehubungan dengan itu, kajian ini cuba membangunkan kaedah baharu yang dapat mengurangkan masa pengiraan penentu bagi matriks sebarang peringkat. Kaedah yang dibangunkan adalah berasaskan pilih atur yang dijana dengan menggunakan set pemula. Semua set pemula bagi  $n$  elemen yang diperolehi melalui pendekatan kombinatorik akan menghasilkan pilih atur  $n!$  yang lengkap dan berbeza. Strategi set pemula yang digunakan ini juga telah dibuktikan lebih cekap berbanding dengan kaedah untuk menyenaraikan semua pilih atur yang sedia ada seperti kaedah *lexicographic*. Semua pilih atur yang diperolehi seterusnya digunakan bagi membina kaedah baharu untuk mencari penentu matriks bersaiz  $n \times n$ . Kajian ini juga telah menghasilkan teorem baharu untuk mencari penentu matriks bersaiz  $n \times n$  dan teorem ini telah dibuktikan mempunyai persamaan dengan teorem yang sedia ada iaitu Leibniz teorem. Di samping itu, beberapa teori dan sifat matematik untuk penjanaan pilih atur dan pengiraan penentu turut dibina dan dibukti bagi mengesahkan kaedah baharu yang dibina. Keputusan berangka mendapati masa pengiraan penentu bagi kaedah baharu adalah lebih cepat jika dibandingkan dengan kaedah yang sedia ada. Pengujian kaedah baharu turut dilakukan ke atas beberapa matriks khas seperti matriks Toeplitz, Hilbert dan Hessenberg bagi membuktikan kecekapan kaedah yang telah dibangunkan. Keputusan berangka juga menunjukkan kaedah baharu dapat mencari penentu matriks khas dengan lebih pantas jika dibandingkan dengan kaedah Gauss dan Gauss Jordan.

**Katakunci:** Pilih atur, Set pemula, Penentu matriks.

## Abstract

Methods for finding determinants for matrices have long been explored and attracted interest of numerous researchers. However, most of the existing methods are tedious and require lengthy computation time particularly as the size of matrices becomes larger. Therefore, this study attempts to develop a new method which can reduce determinant computation time for matrices of any order. The developed method was based on permutations which were generated using starter sets. All starter sets for  $n$  elements were obtained by using combinatorial approach which then produced all  $n!$  distinct permutations. This starter sets strategy was proven to be more efficient if compared to other existing methods for listing all permutations such as lexicographic method. All permutations obtained were then used to construct a new method for finding determinants of  $n \times n$  matrices. This study also produced a new theorem for finding determinant of  $n \times n$  matrices and this theorem was proven to be equivalent to the existing theorem i.e Leibniz theorem. Besides that, several new theoretical works and mathematical properties for generating permutation and determining determinant were also constructed to verify the new developed method. The numerical results revealed that the determinant computation time for the new method was faster if compared to the existing methods. Testing of the new method on several special matrices such as Toeplitz, Hilbert and Hessenberg matrices was also carried out to prove the efficiency of the developed method. The numerical results also indicated that the new method outperformed Gauss and Gauss Jordan methods in term of computation time..

**Keywords:** Permutation, Starter sets, Determinant of matrices.

## **Acknowledgments**

I am grateful to the Almighty Allah for giving me the opportunity to complete my PhD thesis. May peace and blessing of Allah be upon His beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW), his family, and his companions.

In completing this thesis, I owe a debt of gratitude and thanks to many persons and institutions that have supported me throughout this difficult and challenging journey. While being thankful to all of them, I must register my gratitude to some in particular. First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my principal supervisor, Associate Professor Dr. Haslinda Ibrahim, who has been very patient in guiding and supporting me from the very beginning of my first arrival here in Malaysia and throughout the completion of this thesis. She has assisted me immensely in developing a correct focus for my study and has given me her valuable ideas, insights, comments and suggestions towards understanding the empirical predicaments I was encountering. Honestly, I considered her not only as my supervisor, but also my friend and my sister in Malaysia. I would also like to convey my great thanks to my second supervisor, Professor Dr. Zurni Omar, who has been very kind to help me in my study. He has provided me immense assistance during my difficult days in my PhD journey. Without their constant supports and guidance's this thesis would never have been completed.

I would like to also express my special gratitude to Dr. Faridah Wati Mohd. Shamsudin, for her patience and time in editing and proofreading my work, without which the thesis will never be completed. I would like to also thank my dear friends in Malaysia for the friendship rendered and assistance provided during my stay here in Malaysia and UUM in particular. To all academic and administrative staff in the College of Arts of Sciences, my sincere gratitude goes to you.

I would like to express my never ending appreciation and gratitude to people in Iraq. First and foremost, I would like to remember the soul of my father who had been a great and wise teacher in my life and my lovely mother for her infinite patience especially during my absence, and her sincere flow of love has accompanied me all the way in my long struggle and has pushed me to pursue my dreams.

A special thank goes to all participants in Iraq for supporting my study especially during my short stay in Iraq. I would like to thank all my friends for their constant supports and helps. Last but not least, to my family, friends, teachers, brothers and sisters, I thank you so much for continuously giving me the undivided support and eternal prayers. To all of you, I have this to say: I love you, respect you, pray for you, and May Allah bless you.

## Table of Contents

Permission to use.....	i
Abstrak.....	ii
Abstract.....	iv
Acknowledgments.....	v
Table of Contents .....	vi
List of Tables.....	vii
List of Figures.....	x
List of Publications.....	xi

### CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background.....	1
1.2 Motivation of the Study.....	8
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	9
1.4 Organization of Thesis.....	10

### CHAPTER TWO: BASIC CONCEPTS AND TERMINOLOGY

2.1 Fundamental Concepts of Permutation.....	11
2.2 Fundamental Concepts for Determinants of Matrices.....	15
2.3 Preliminaries of Floating Point Operations and Pivot Strategy.....	18

### CHAPTER THREE: GENERATING PERMUTATION VIA STARTER SETS

3.1 Algorithms for Generating Permutation.....	20
3.1.1 Permutation Algorithms not Based on Exchanges (random) .....	21
3.1.2 Permutation Algorithms Based on Exchanges (lexicographic) .....	23
3.2 Combinatorial Approach for Generating Permutation.....	24
3.2.1 Generating Permutation by Using Starter Sets.....	26
3.3 Comparison between Starter Sets Algorithm and Lexicographic Algorithm for Generating All Permutations.....	28
3.4 Discussion and Conclusion.....	31

### CHAPTER FOUR: NEW ALGORITHM FOR DETERMINANT OF MATRICES



4.1	Fundamental Concepts for New Algorithm.....	32
4.2	Algorithm for Determinant of Matrices.....	33
4.3	The Main Results.....	44
4.4	New Formula for Determinant.....	48
4.5	Some Fundamental Theorems for the New Formula .....	55

## CHAPTER FIVE: COMPARISONS OF ALGORITHMS FOR DETERMINANT OF MATRICES

5.1	Recursive Algorithms for Determinant of Matrices.....	66
5.1.1	Floating Point Operations for Recursive Algorithms.....	69
5.2	Elimination Algorithms for Determinant of Matrices.....	78
5.3	Comparisons between Elimination Algorithms and New Algorithm.....	83
5.4	The Applications of New Algorithm in Special Matrices .....	86
5.4.2	Comparisons of Determinant for Special Matrices by New Algorithm and Permutation Algorithm.....	87

## CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUDING REMARKS

6.1	Conclusion of Study.....	94
6.2	Main Contributions .....	95
6.3	Suggestion for Future Work.....	97

<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>98</b>
------------------------	-----------

<b>APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>101</b>
------------------------	------------

Appendix A1:	Generating permutation using starter set algorithm.....	101
Appendix A2:	New algorithm for determinant of matrices.....	104
Appendix B1:	Generating permutation using lexicographic algorithm.....	109
Appendix B2:	Determinant of matrices using permutation algorithm.....	110
Appendix C1:	Determinant of matrices using Gauss algorithm.....	112
Appendix C2:	Determinant of matrices using Gauss algorithm with partial pivot.....	113
Appendix D1:	Determinant of matrices using Gauss-Jordan algorithm.....	116
Appendix D2:	Determinant of matrices using Gauss-Jordan algorithm with partial pivot .....	118

## **List of Tables**

Table 3.1	The execution time (in seconds) for lexicographic algorithm and starter set algorithm.....	29
Table 5.1	Results of the floating point operations for recursive algorithms.....	77
Table 5.2	The execution time (in seconds) between the new algorithm and elimination algorithms .....	84
Table 5.3	The execution time of the new algorithm (in seconds) for special matrices .....	87
Table 5.4	The execution time of permutation algorithm (in seconds) for special matrices .....	90
Table 5.5	Execution times (in seconds) for new algorithm with permutation algorithm using special matrices.....	92

## List of Figures

Figure 3.1	The execution time between starter set algorithm and Lexicographic Algorithm.....	30
Figure 3.2	Comparison the execution times between the starter set algorithm and lexicographic.....	30
Figure 4.1	List all permutation generation by starter sets, (i), (ii), (iii).....	38
Figure 4.2	Sub matrices generating from, (i), (ii), (iii).....	39
Figure 4.3	Multiplications of diagonal and inverse diagonal for all matrices.....	40
Figure 4.4	Signs of multiplications of diagonal and inverse diagonal for all matrices.....	40
Figure 4.5	Calculating sub-determinants from (1 2 3 4) starter set	42
Figure 4.6	Calculating sub-determinants from (1 3 4 2) starter set	42
Figure 4.7	Calculating sub-determinants from (1 4 2 3) starter set	42
Figure 5.1	Comparison of the calculations for floating point operations for recursive algorithms.....	78
Figure 5.2	The execution time between new algorithm and elimination algorithms.....	85
Figure 5.3	Comparison of the times between new algorithm and elimination algorithms.....	86
Figure 5.4	The execution time of special matrices by the new algorithm.....	88
Figure 5.5	Comparison of the execution times of special matrices by the new algorithm.....	89
Figure 5.6	The execution time of special matrices by permutation algorithm.....	90
Figure 5.7	Comparison of the times for special matrices by permutation algorithm.....	91
Figure 5.8	The execution time of the two algorithms for three kinds of matrices.....	93
Figure 5.9	Comparison of the execution times of the two algorithms for special matrices.....	93

## **List of publications**

- [1] Zake, L. M., Ibrahim, H., & Omar, Z. (2011). *A new algorithm for determinant of matrices*. Paper presented at International Conference on Mathematical and Computational Biology held on 12-14 April, Melaka, Malaysia: UPM.
- [2] Zake, L. M., Ibrahim, H., & Omar, Z. (2011). Calculating new algorithm for determinant. In W. Fan (Ed.), *Proceedings of international conference on engineering and information management (ICEIM)* (pp. 730-735). Chengdu, China: IEEE.
- [3] Zake, L. M., Ibrahim, H., & Omar, Z. (2011). Comparisons for determinants of special matrices by algorithm proposed. *Journal of Information and Computing Science, 1*, 49-54.
- [4] Zake, L. M., Ibrahim, H., & Omar, Z. (2011). Efficient Formula of the Proposed Algorithm by Permutation. *Far East Journal of Mathematical Sciences*, submitted.
- [5] Zake, L. M., Ibrahim, H., & Omar, Z. (2011). Algorithm for Determinant by Using Permutation. *Proceedings of the 2011 Global Congress on Science and Engineering (GCSE)*. Dubai, UAE: ELSEVIER.

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

The study of determinants has a long history and appears to be essential in some geometric and algebraic computations (see e.g. Bareiss, 1968; Benno, 2008; Clarkson, 1992; Gentleman & Johnson, 1974). The literature indicates that there are various different algorithms to find the determinants of matrices (see, e.g.; Bareiss, 1968; Gentleman & Johnson, 1974; Griss, 1976; Hajrizaj, 2009; Iqbal, 1995; Sasaki & Murao, 1982; Thongchiew, 2007). The most common algorithms are Expansion algorithms, i.e. Cofactor expansion, Minor expansion (Gentleman & Johnson, 1974; Griss, 1976), Elimination algorithms, i.e. Gauss, Gauss Jordan (Bareiss, 1968; Gentleman & Johnson, 1974; Sasaki & Murao, 1982), and Algorithms of permutation, i.e. Permutation algorithm (Iqbal, 1995; Mahajan & Vinay, 1997; Thongchiew, 2007). These algorithms for the determinant of matrices can be easily computed either by hand or computer if the size of the matrices is small (Hajrizaj, 2009; Gentleman & Johnson, 1974; Griss, 1976; Li, 2007). However, when the size of the matrices is larger, computations for these algorithms will be problematic and complicated. This is because the process of finding the determinant is not a mere sequential calculation process of values but involves highly structured operations (Li, 2007). Whether the computations are carried out manually or by using a computer program, more time is needed because of the increasing level of difficulty involved (Li, 2007). In fact, according to Dingle (2005), the execution time appears

The contents of  
the thesis is for  
internal user  
only

## REFERENCES

- Althoen, S. C., & McLaughlin, R. (1987). Gauss-Jordan reduction: A brief history. *Journal American Mathematical Monthly*, 94(2), 130-142.
- Bareiss, E. H. (1968). Sylvester's identity and multistep integer-preserving Gaussian elimination. *Mathematics of Computation*, 22(103), 565-578.
- Benno, F. (2008). Modified Gauss algorithm for matrices with symbolic entries. *ACM Communications in Computer Algebra*, 42(3), 108-121.
- Cinkir, Z. (2011). Computing the determinant of pent diagonal toeplitz matrices in logarithmic time. Retrieved on March 12, 2011, from: [http://arxiv.org/PS\\_cache/arxiv/pdf/1102/1102.0453v1.pdf](http://arxiv.org/PS_cache/arxiv/pdf/1102/1102.0453v1.pdf).
- Choi, M. D. (1983). Tricks or treats with the Hilbert Matrix. *Journal of Arts and Sciences of American Mathematical Monthly*, 90, 301-312.
- Clarkson, K. L. (1992). Safe and effective determinant evaluation. In T. I. INC (Ed.), *Proceedings of the 33rd annual symposium on foundations of computer science* (pp. 387 - 395). Pittsburgh, PA.: IEEE.
- Curtis, A. R., & Reid, K. J. (1972). On the automatic scaling of matrices for Gaussian elimination. *IMA Journal of Applied Mathematics*, 10(1), 118-124.
- Dingle, B. M. (2005). *Calculating determinants of symbolic and numeric matrices*. Texas. Retrieved on April 16, 2011, from: <http://www.cs.tamu.edu/academics/tr/tamu-cs-tr-2005-11-4>.
- Dubbs, C., & Siegel, D. (1987). Computing determinants. *The College Mathematics Journal*, 18, 48-50.
- Eberly, D. (2007). The Laplace expansion theorem: Computing the determinants and inverses of matrices. *Geometric Tools, LLC*. Retrieved on April 16, 2011, from: <http://www.geometrictools.com/Documentation/LaplaceExpansionTheorem>.
- Elouafi, M., & Hadj-Aiat, D. A. (2009). A recursion formula for the characteristic polynomial of Hessenberg matrices. *Applied Mathematics and Computation*, 208, 177-179.
- Fike, C. T. (1975). A permutation generation method. *The Computer Journal*, 18(1), 21-22.
- Garloff, J. U. (2009). Interval Gaussian elimination with pivot tightening. *SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Application*, 30, 1761-1772.

- Gentleman, W. M., & Johnson, S. C. (1974). The evaluation of determinants by expansion by minors and the general problem of substitution. *Mathematics of Computation*, 28(126), 543-548.
- Goldfinger, Y. (2008). *Determinant by cofactor expansion using the cell processor*. CMSC 491A. Retrieved on May 13, 2011, from: <http://mc2.umbc.edu/docs/goldfinger.pdf>
- Griss, M. L. (1976). An efficient sparse minor expansion algorithm. In J. Gosden, & O. G. Johnson (Ed.), *ACM National Conference 76, Proceedings of the association for computing machinery annual conference* (pp. 429-434). New York, NY: ACM.
- Hajrizaj, D. (2009). New method to compute the determinant of a 3x3 matrix. *International Journal of Algebra*, 3, 211 - 219.
- Horn, R. A., & Johnson, C. R. (1991). *Matrix analysis*. Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- Huang, T., & Le, J. (2008). A note on computing the inverse and the determinant of a pent diagonal Toeplitz matrix. *Applied Mathematics and Computation*, 206, 327-331.
- Ibrahim, H., Omar, Z. & Rohni, A. M. (2010). New algorithm for listing all permutations. *Modern Applied Science*, 4(2), 89-93.
- Iqbal, K. (1995). An algorithm for computation of determinants of polynomial matrices, In H. Lane, M. Tomizuka, V. Cheng, & M. Peshkin (Eds.), *Proceedings of the American automatic control conference on the international federation of automatic control*. (pp. 2536-2537). Seattle, WA, USA: IEEE.
- Knuth, D. E. (2005). *Generating All Tuples and Permutations. The Art of Computer Programming*. Addison-Wesley. (4), (pp. 1-26).
- Lehmer, D. H. (1960). Teaching combinatorial tricks to a computer. In X. R. Bellman, & M. Hal, Jr (Ed.), *Proceedings of Symposium Applied Mathematics, Combinatorial Analysis*. (pp. 179-193). Providence, R.I.: Amer. Math. Society.
- Li, Y. (2007). An effective algorithm of computing symbolic determinants with multivariate polynomial entries. *Applied Mathematics and Computation*, 192, 382-388.
- Mahajan, M., & Vinay, V. (1997). Determinant: Combinatorics, algorithms, and complexity. *Chicago Journal of Theoretical Computer Science*, 1997-5, 730-738.
- Mani, G. Iyer, (1995). *Permutation generation using matrices*. Retrieved on November 01, 2010, from <http://www.drdobbs.com/184409671>.



- Press, W. H. (1986). *Numerical Recipes*. Cambridge, United States of America.
- Rezaifar, O., & Rezaee, M. (2007). A new approach for finding the determinant of matrices. *Applied Mathematics and Computation*, 188, 1445-1454.
- Robert, K. B., Gustavson, F. G., & Willoughby, R. A. (1970). Some results on sparse matrices. *Mathematics of Computation*, 24, 937-954.
- Rohl, J. S. (1978). Generating permutations by choosing. *The Computer Journal*, 21(4), 302-305.
- Rote, G. U. (2001). Division-free algorithms for the determinant and the Pfaffian: Algebraic and combinatorial approaches. *Computational Discrete Mathematics*, 2122, 119-135.
- Sasaki, T., & Murao, H. (1982). Efficient Gaussian elimination method for symbolic determinants and linear systems. *ACM Transactions on Mathematical Software (TOMS)*, 8(3), 277-289.
- Sasaki, T., & Kako, F. (2007). Computing floating-point gröbner bases stably. In S. M. Watt, & J. Verschelde (Ed.), *Proceedings of the international workshop and International Symposium on Symbolic and Algebraic Computation, ISSAC '07* (pp. 180-189). Waterloo, Canada: ACM.
- Sedgewick, R. (1977). Permutation generation methods. *Journal Computer Science of Applied Mathematics*, 9, 137-164.
- Sogabe, T. (2007). On a two-term recurrence for the determinant of a general matrix. *Applied Mathematics and Computation*, 187, 785-788.
- Sogabe, T. (2008a). A fast numerical algorithm for the determinant of a pent diagonal matrix. *Applied Mathematics and Computation*, 196, 835-841.
- Sogabe, T. (2008b). A note on "A fast numerical algorithm for the determinant of a pent diagonal matrix". *Applied Mathematics and Computation*, 201, 561-564.
- Sheldon, A. (1995). Down With Determinants. *Mathematical Association of America*, 102, 139-154.
- Thongchiew, K. (2007). A computerized algorithm for generating permutation and its application in determining a determinant. *World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology*, 27, 178-183.
- Vein, R., & Dale, P. (1998). *Determinants and Their Applications in Mathematical Physics*. Springer-Verlag New York.